



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

NOV.

NO. 76

15¢



IF...IF YOU TRY TO HURT HIM... YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST!

FEATURING:

"THE MONSTER MAKER"



"Secret of the SORCERER'S MIRROR"

JOE LUMBER

9697

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

THIS MUST GO
OFF AS PLANNED!
WHATEVER IS IN THAT
GROTTO IS DANGEROUS
AND TOTALLY UNKNOWN
TO THIS EARTH!

IF THEY EXPECT
ME TO DO MY PART,
THE CHALLENGERS
HAVE A SURPRISE COMING!
THIS IS ONE ATTACK ON
THE UNKNOWN THAT
WON'T SUCCEED!

BY JACK KIRBY
& WALLY WOOD

A MEMBER OF THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
MUST WILLINGLY PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE, EVEN IF
THE ODDS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY AGAINST HIM. FOR
WHAT HE ENCOUNTERS IN THE VAST DARKNESS BEYOND
HIS WORLD MAY BE ALL-POWERFUL--ALL EVIL--AND
MAY GIVE NO QUARTER. "TO RISK" IS THE RULE. AND
EVEN AN HONORARY CHALLENGER CANNOT BREAK IT.
THAT IS WHY THE BLOW IS HARD AND PAINFUL TO
HER FOUR FEARLESS FRIENDS WHEN THEY DISCOVER
THAT JUNE
WALKER IS...

The TRAITOROUS CHALLENGER

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 76, Oct.-Nov., 1970. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Diekey Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Murray Boltinoff, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Second Class Postage Paid at Sparta, Ill. under the act of March 3, 1879. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1970. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A DESERTED VILLAGE IN AUSTRALIA'S WILD AND REMOTE INTERIOR, A HELICOPTER DESCENDS AND LANDS...

BLIMEY! A SURPRISE VISITOR! AND MIGHTY PRETTY!

IS THAT OUR ONE AND ONLY HONORARY CHALLENGER, JUNE WALKER?

IT'S JUNE, ALL RIGHT! BUT WHAT IS SHE DOING OUT THERE?

JUNE! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE IN WASHINGTON!

THAT'S JUST WHY I'VE COME, BOYS! YOU CHALLENGERS ARE NEEDED THERE-- ON A MORE URGENT ASSIGNMENT!

LOOK, JUNE, WE HAVE A JOB TO DO HERE, POSSIBLY A VERY DANGEROUS JOB--

YOU TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU LEFT. YOU'RE MERELY TRAPPING SOME SORT OF ANIMAL DREAMED UP IN A PROSPECTOR'S WILD LETTER!

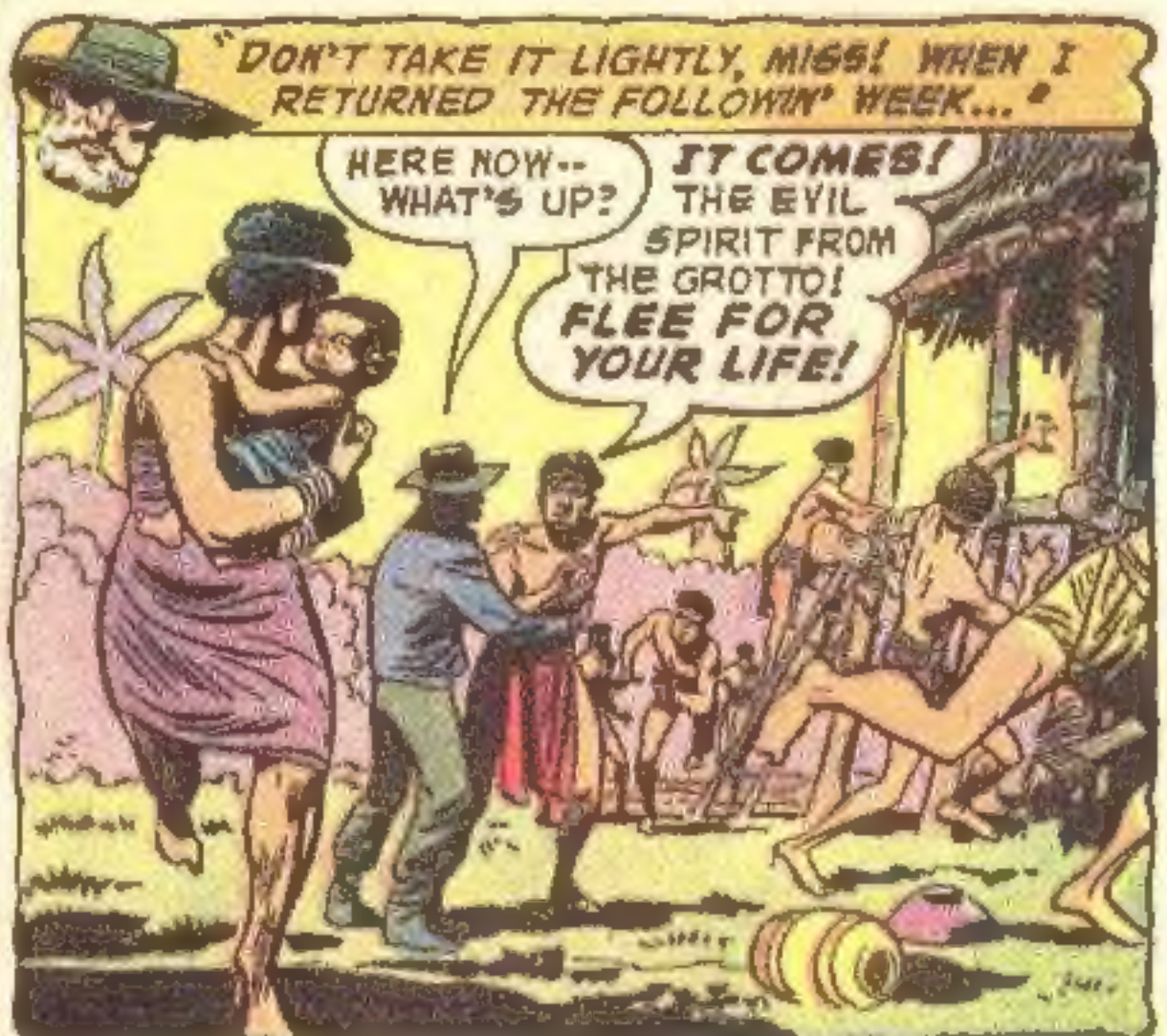
HOLD ON, MISS! I'M DIGGER BILL THE PROSPECTOR. SURE, IT SMACKS OF ALL THE BAD DREAMS A MAN EVER HAD! BUT LET ME TELL YOU THIS! THE THING THAT WRECKED THAT VILLAGE AND FRIGHTENED OFF ITS PEOPLE WAS NO FAIRY TALE!

"I SAW IT FIRST IN THAT VERY GROTTO. I'D COME HERE TO DO SOME TRADIN' WHEN THE STORM BROKE, FRIGHTENIN' OFF MY HORSES AND LEAVIN' ME TO WANDER ABOUT IN THE TORRENT..."

THIS IS A STROKE O' LUCK! A CAVE ISN'T THE BEST O' LODGIN'S, BUT A MAN CAN KEEP DRY IN HERE!

"IT WAS A-FEELIN' WHAT WOKE ME IN THE MORNIN'-- THE SORT O' FEELIN' WHAT PUTS FEAR IN A MAN!"

WH-WHAT IS THIS THING? BLIMEY, IF IT DON'T LOOK ALIVE!







THAT'S TORN IT! THE BLINKIN' BLAST SEALED UP THE ENTRANCE TO THE GROTTO!

TOO BAD! THIS WILL MEAN A BIG DELAY! WHAT'S WRONG, PROF?

IT'S HARD TO SAY, ROCKY. I CLEARED THIS AREA OF ROCKS BEFORE I SET DOWN THE DETONATOR. THERE WAS NOTHING FOR JUNE TO STUMBLE ON...

YOU CAN'T MEAN SHE DELIBERATELY SET OFF THAT BLAST! SHE WOULDN'T--



I DON'T KNOW, RED... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER SUDDEN VISIT... HER STORY ABOUT AN ASSIGNMENT IN WASHINGTON... HER FLIPPANT ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR JOB HERE...

THERE'S A WAY OF FINDING OUT, RED!

BUT SABOTAGING OUR PLANS WOULD BE BREAKING THE CHALLENGER CODE! EVEN AN HONORARY CHALLENGER WOULDN'T TURN TRAITOR!

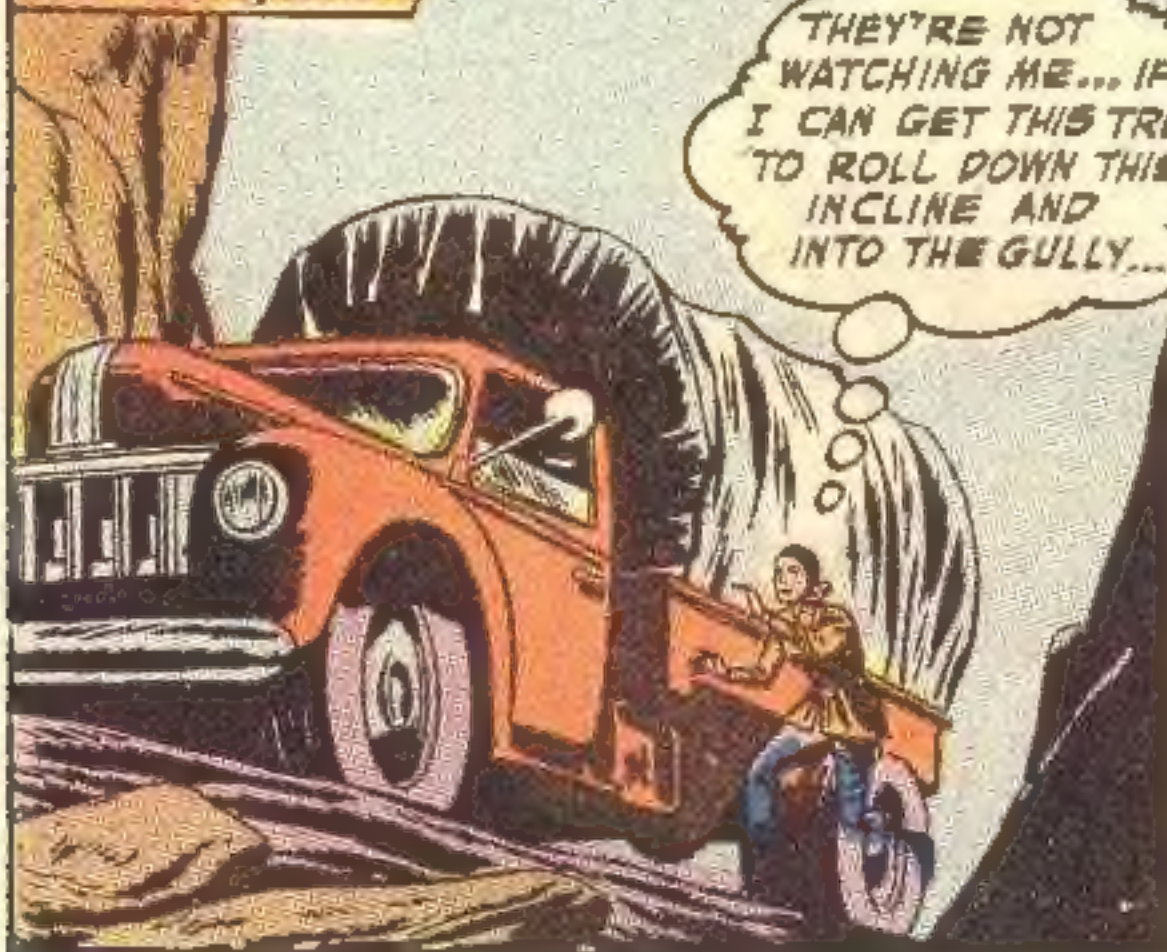


LATER, WHEN ACE REJOINS HIS COMPANIONS...

THEY HAVEN'T GIVEN UP! I MUST GET RID OF THEIR WEAPONS IF I'M TO HALT THEM AT ALL!



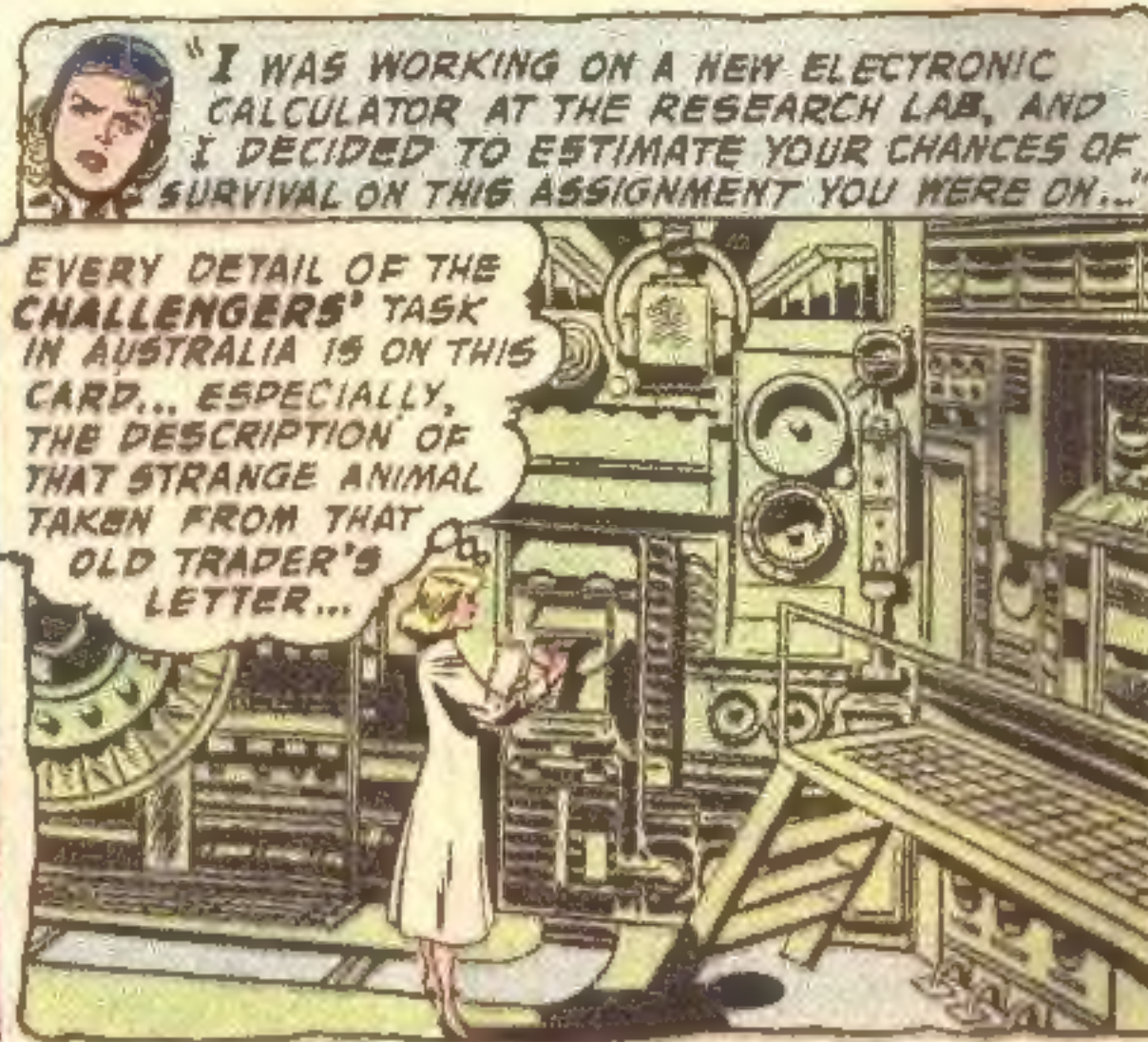
CAUTIOUSLY, JUNE SLIPS OFF, AND...

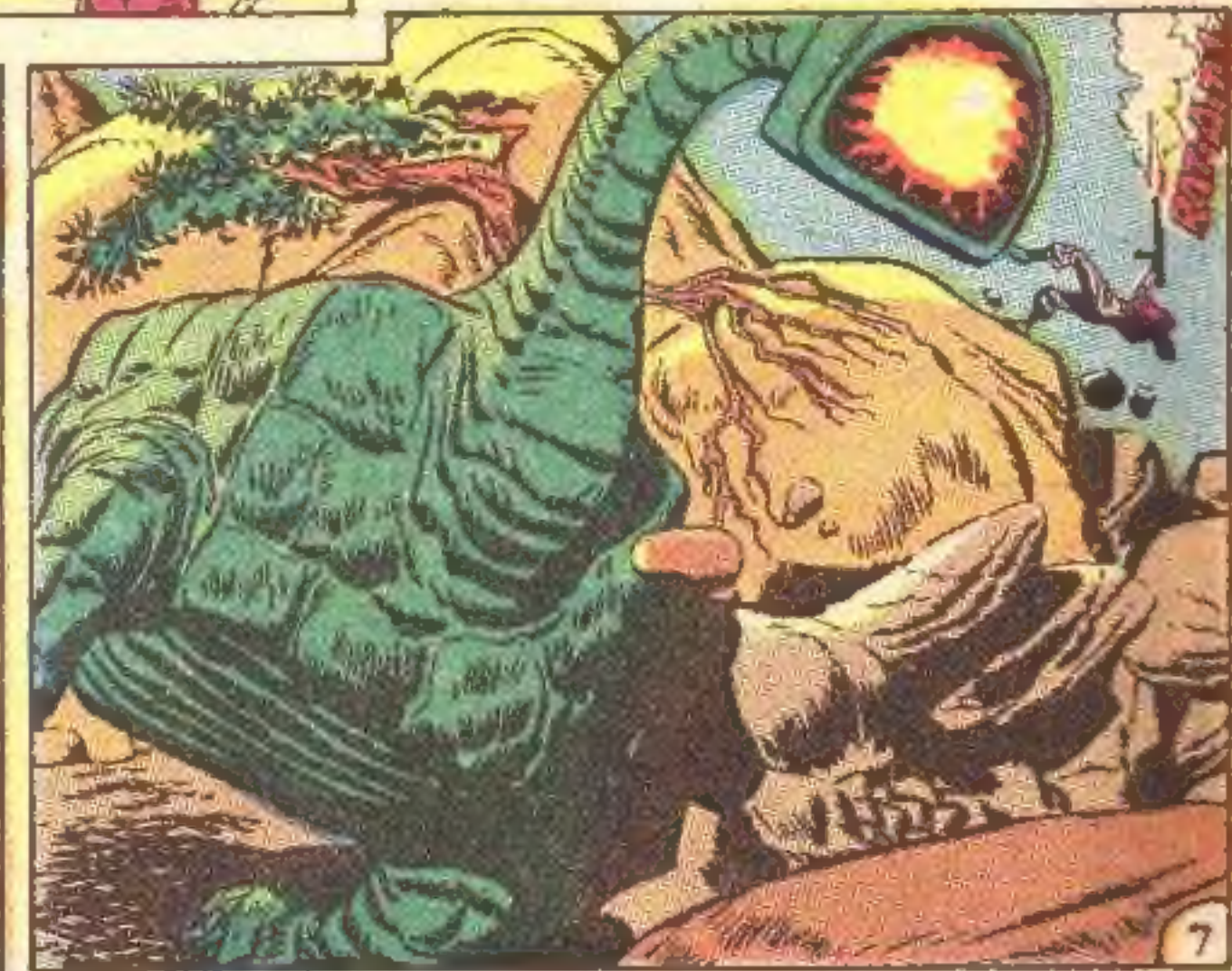
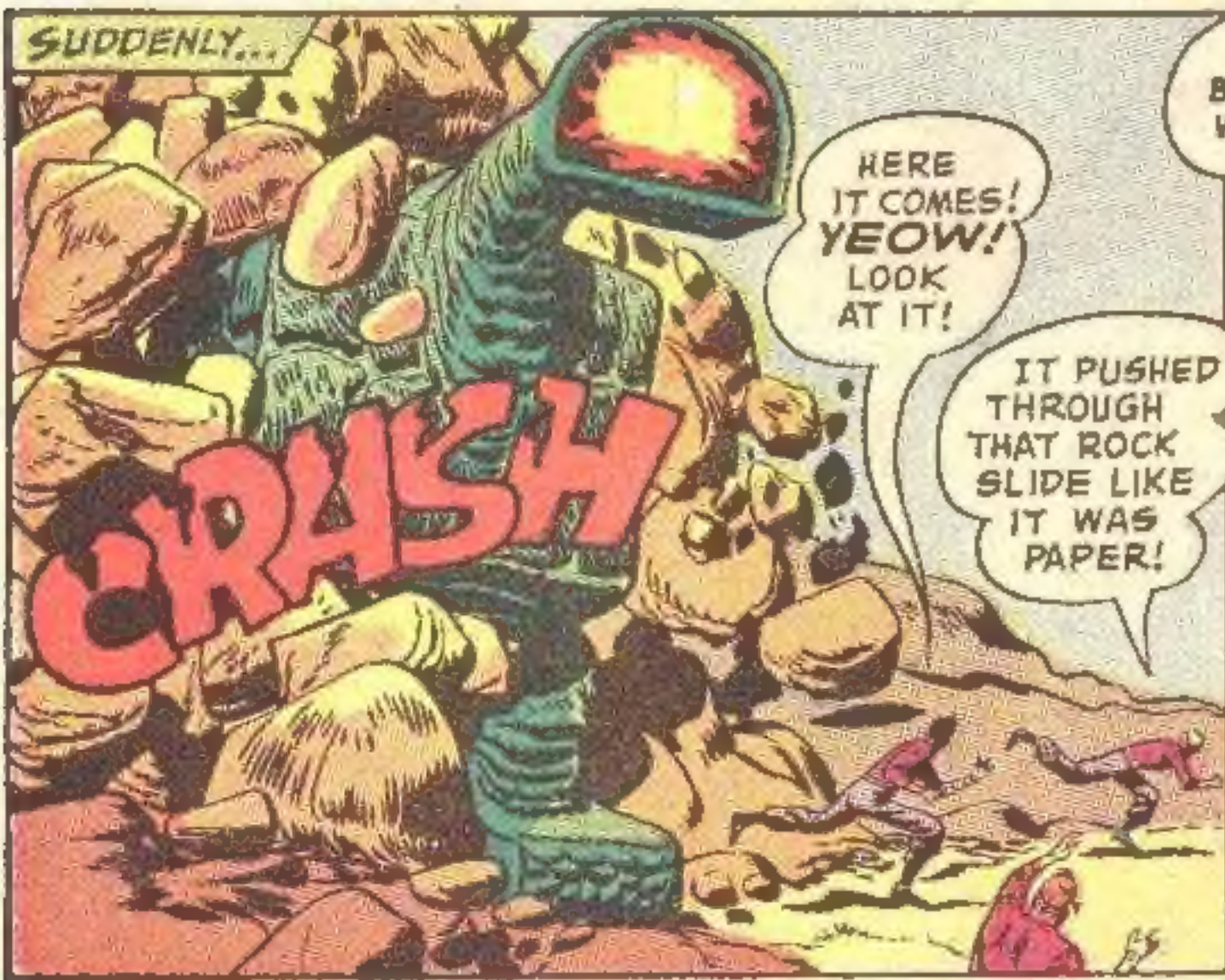


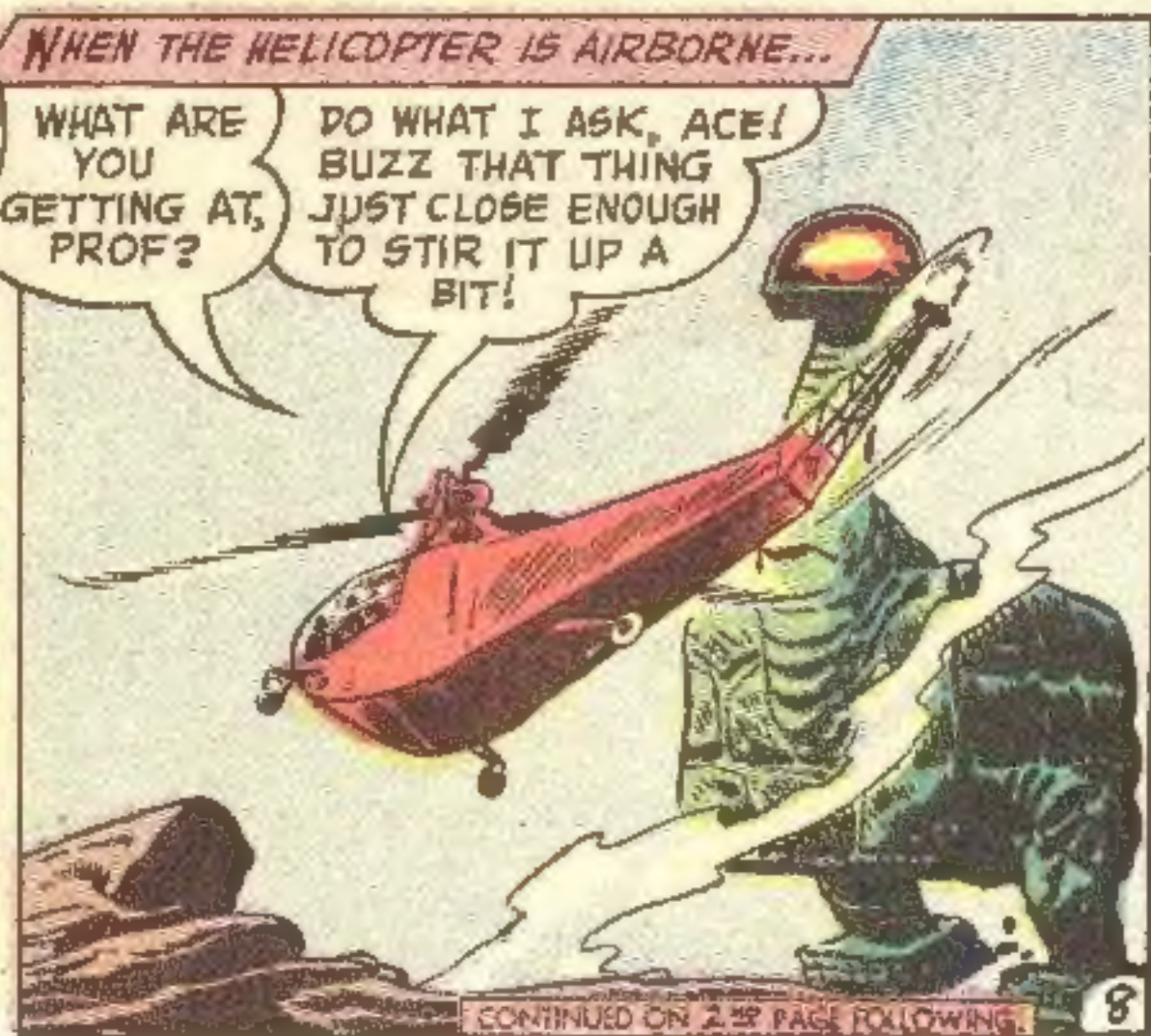
THEY'RE NOT WATCHING ME... IF I CAN GET THIS TRUCK TO ROLL DOWN THIS INCLINE AND INTO THE GULLY...

... THE WEAPONS INSIDE WILL BE SMASHED AND LEAVE THE CHALLENGERS HELPLESS TO CONTINUE THEIR JOB!







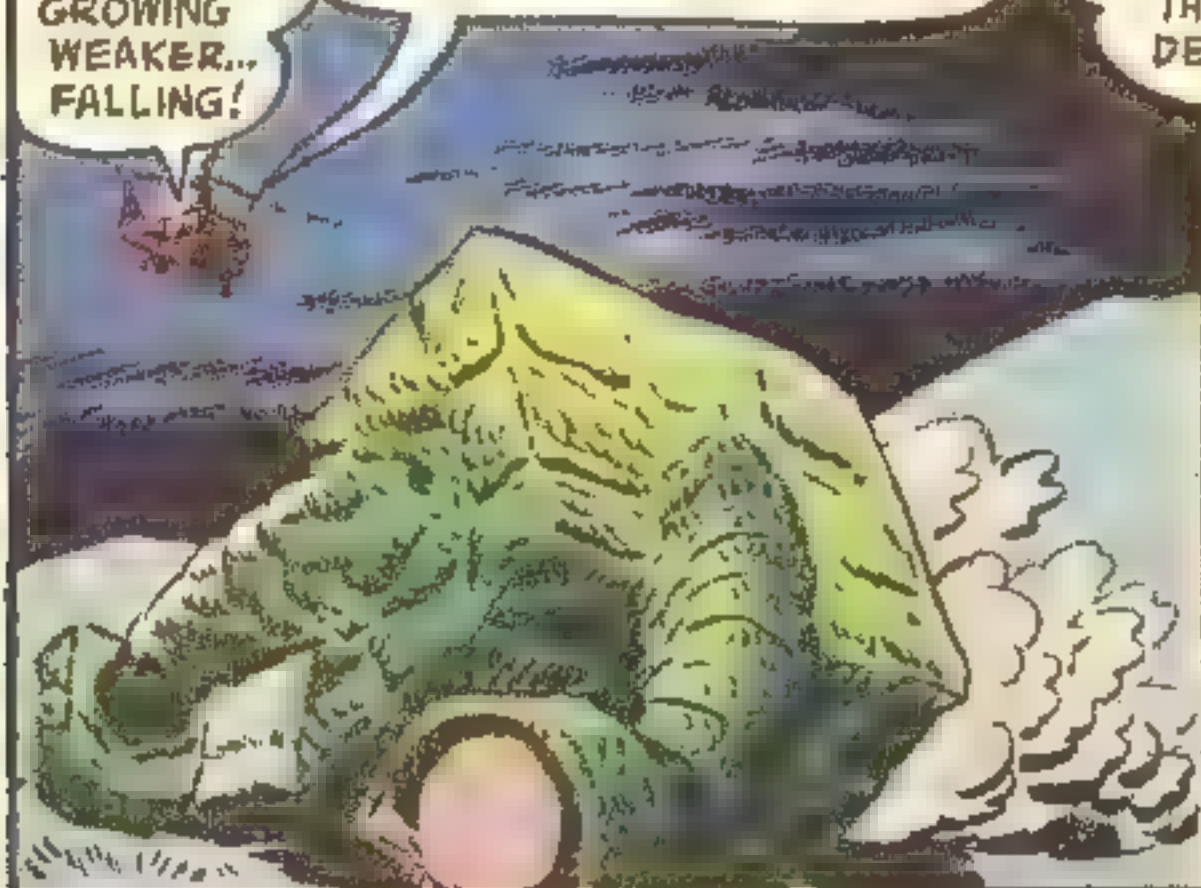




PROF'S PREDICTION SOON BEARS FRUIT...

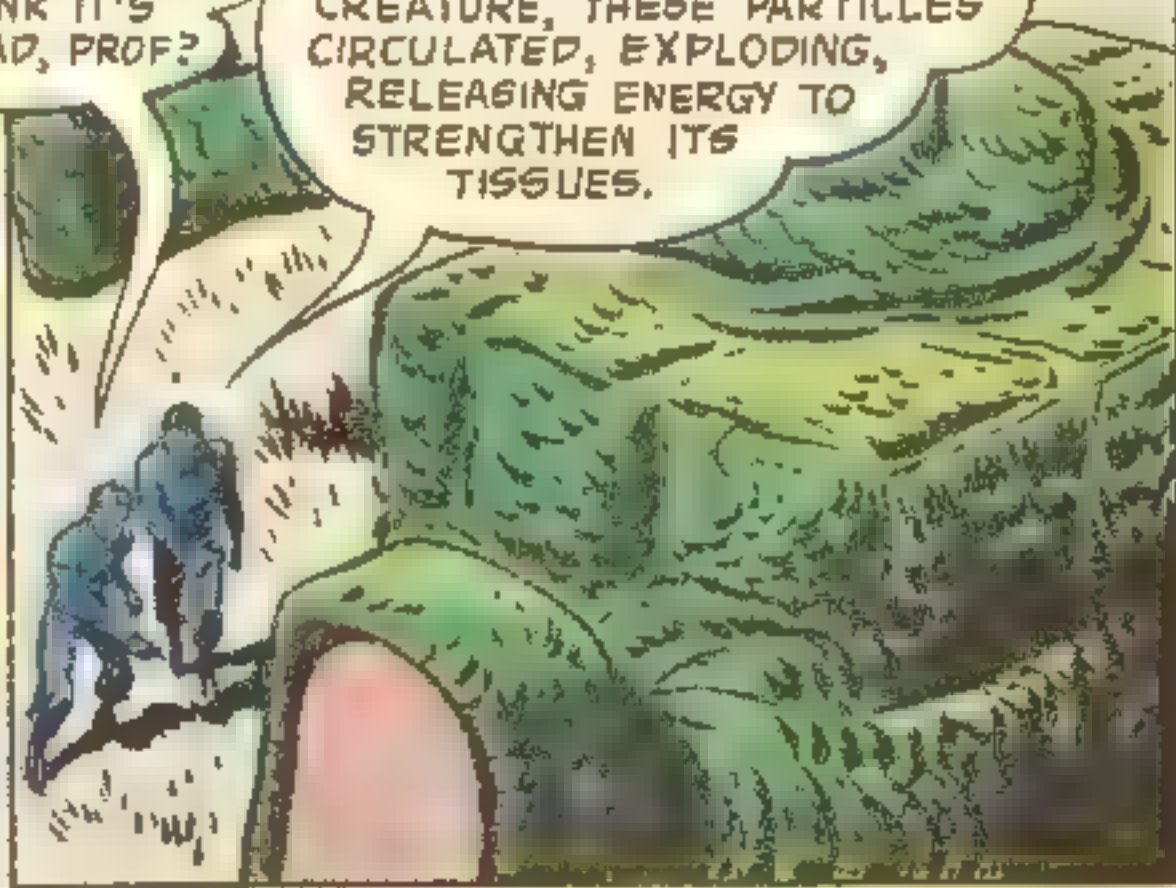
PROF'S
RIGHT! IT'S
GROWING
WEAKER...
FALLING!

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO LAND
NOW... BUT NOT TOO CLOSE...



THERE'S NO
LIGHT IN ITS
BIG EYE! IT'S
BLANK! DO YOU
THINK IT'S
DEAD, PROF?

I THINK SO... YOU SEE, THE EYE'S
FUNCTION WAS TO TRAP, FILTER AND
ABSORB ATOMIC PARTICLES FROM
THE SUNLIGHT, WITHIN THE
CREATURE, THESE PARTICLES
CIRCULATED, EXPLODING,
RELEASING ENERGY TO
STRENGTHEN ITS
TISSUES.

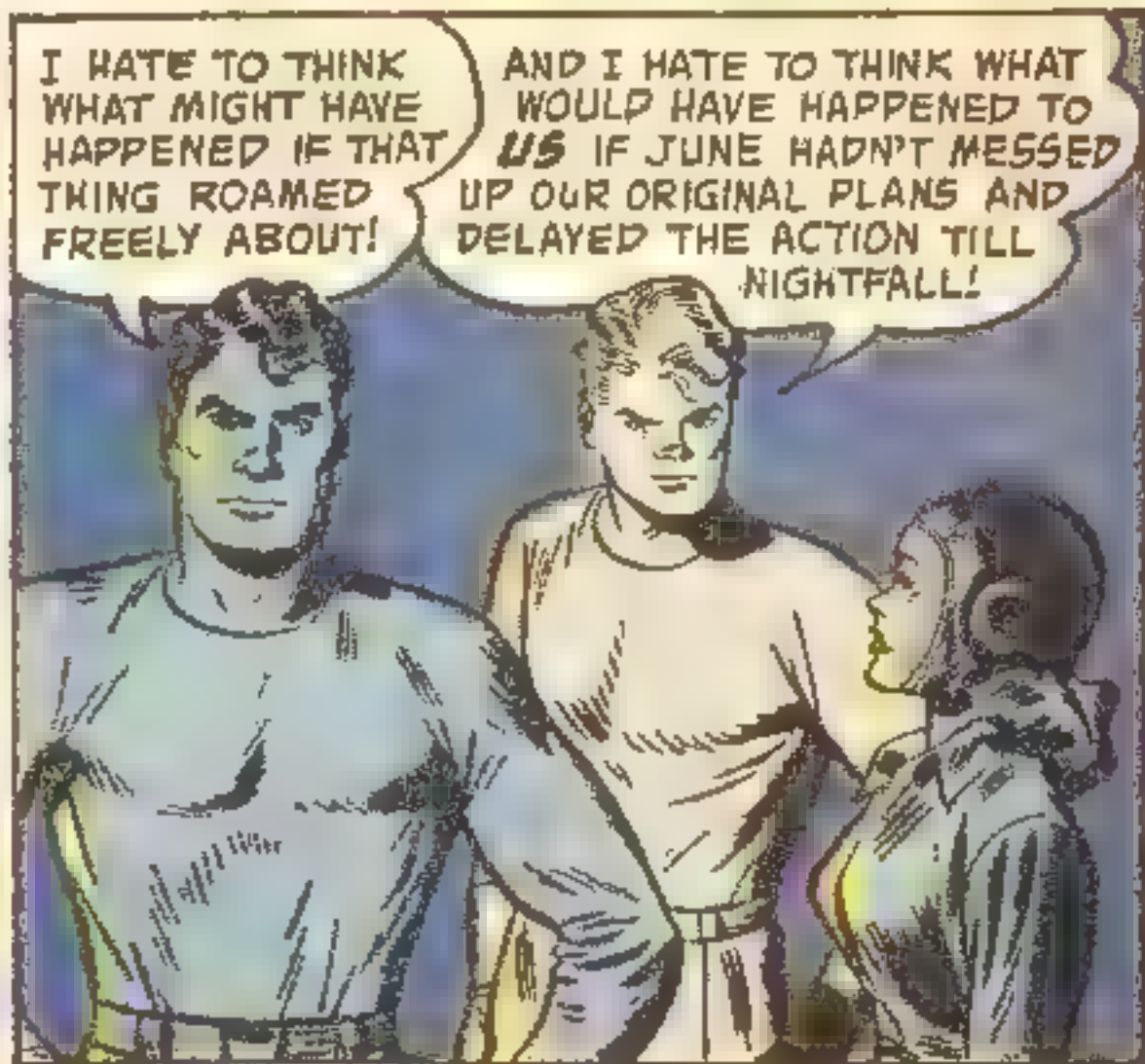


AT NIGHT, IT COULDN'T
FUNCTION UNLESS IT USED
THE VOLCANIC HEAT IN THE
GROTTO. WE DREW IT AWAY
WHERE IT HAD NO MEANS
TO SURVIVE!



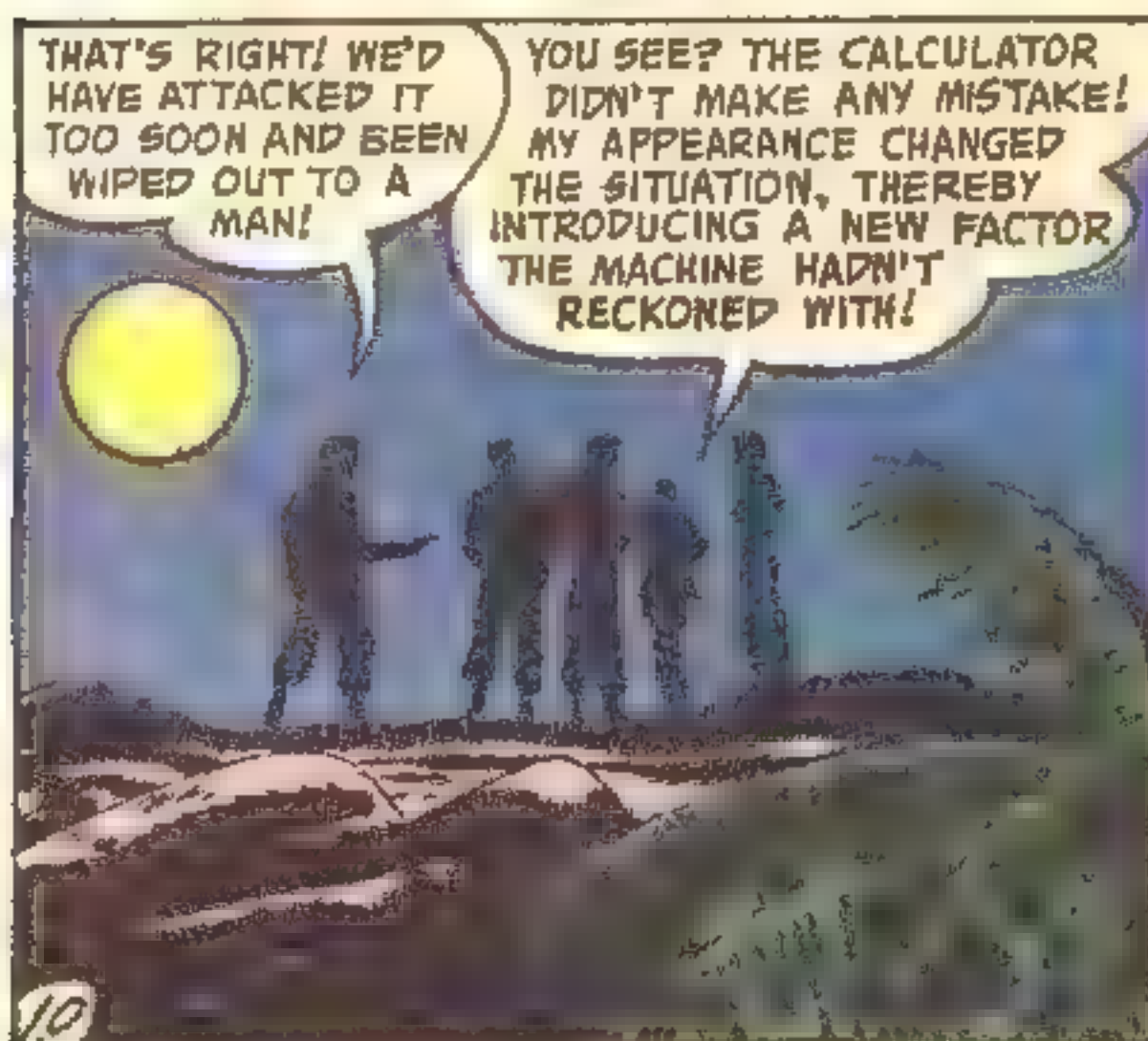
I HATE TO THINK
WHAT MIGHT HAVE
HAPPENED IF THAT
THING ROAMED
FREELY ABOUT!

AND I HATE TO THINK WHAT
WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO
US IF JUNE HADN'T MESSED
UP OUR ORIGINAL PLANS AND
DELAYED THE ACTION TILL
NIGHTFALL!



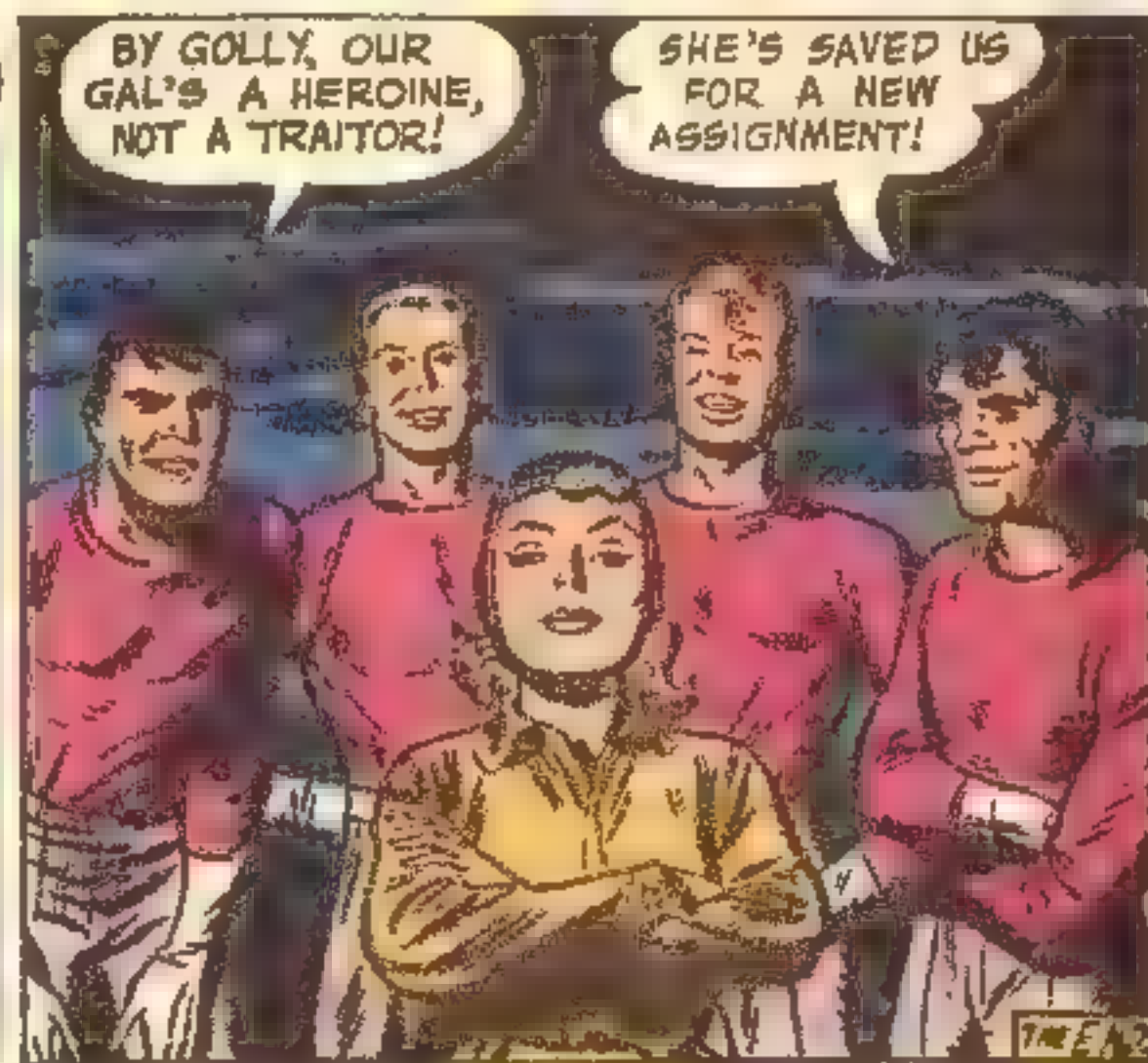
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'D
HAVE ATTACKED IT
TOO SOON AND BEEN
WIPE OUT TO A
MAN!

YOU SEE? THE CALCULATOR
DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKE!
MY APPEARANCE CHANGED
THE SITUATION, THEREBY
INTRODUCING A NEW FACTOR
THE MACHINE HADN'T
RECKONED WITH!



BY GOLLY, OUR
GAL'S A HEROINE,
NOT A TRAITOR!

SHE'S SAVED US
FOR A NEW
ASSIGNMENT!



KIRBY IS COMING

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

BEHOLD THE
MORTALS: THE
CHALLENGERS HAVE
FOUND THE SECRETS
OF THE ANCIENTS--
AND THE DOOM THAT
WAITS FOR THOSE
WHO TAKE THIS
QUEST



IN BYGONE AGES, WHEN SORCERERS PRACTICED THEIR STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS ARTS AND LEGIONS NOW NAMELESS AND FORGOTTEN, THEY WRESTED SECRETS FROM THE UNKNOWN IN WHICH WOULD HAVE BETTER BEEN LEFT UNDISTURBED BUT THE MOST TERRIFYING SECRET OF ALL WAS THE ONE WHICH SEEMED DESTINED TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE EVIL MEN WHO FOOLISHLY DARED TO TAMPER WITH ITS POWER. THE FATE OF ALL HANGS NOW RESTED ON THE SWIFTHNESS AND COURAGE OF THOSE WHO'D PREVENT THE RELEASE OF THIS POWER. THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!

THE SECRET OF THE SORCERER'S MIRROR

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 3, Aug.-Sept., 1958. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd and Dickey Streets SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions: 480 LEXINGTON AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellisworth, Editor. SECOND CLASS ENTRY APPLIED FOR at the post office at Sparta, Ill. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c including postage. Foreign, \$1.50 in American funds.

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



ON THE TRAIL OF AN INTERNATIONAL GANG OF THIEVES, THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN MAKE A HURRIED BET TO A MUSEUM AT A VERY DISTRESSING MOMENT...

THEY SEEMED TO STRIKE FROM NOWHERE, GENTLEMEN! THEY LOOTED ONE OF OUR PRIZE EXHIBITS OF ITS VALUABLE DISPLAY!

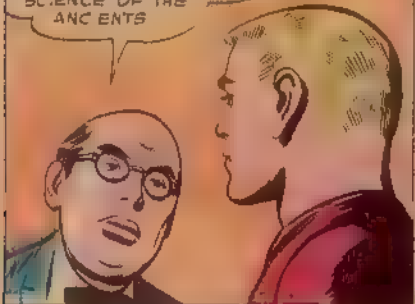
SO WE MISSED THEM BY MINUTES THIS TIME! BUT WE'RE CLOSING THE GAP ON HILLARY MYCROFT AND HIS 'HOODLUMS'!

AS YOU CAN SEE WE WENT TO CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE TO RECREATE THE SETTING OF A SORCERER'S ROOM--EVEN RECONSTRUCTED AN IMAGE OF THE LEGENDARY MAN HIMSELF.

AND YOU SAY THESE VALUABLE ITEMS HAD JUST ARRIVED TO BE PLACED IN THIS EXHIBIT WHEN THE THIEVES APPEARED?



IT ISN'T JUST THAT. THESE WEREN'T THE ORDINARY FINDS THAT ARE DISCOVERED IN OLD RUINS. THE CHART AND MIRROR OF KREGON THE SORCERER ARE VITAL CLUES TO THE SCIENCE OF THE ANCIENTS.



ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS VANISHED IN THE COURSE OF HISTORY, THE ARTS OF THEIR SORCERERS MANAGED TO SURVIVE WELL INTO THE MIDDLE AGES. IT WAS DURING THAT PERIOD THAT KREGON FASHIONED HIS MYSTIC MIRROR!

AND IT'S FINISHED! WITH THE PROPER MANIPULATION OF ITS MECHANISM, THIS MIRROR WILL REFLECT THE LOCATIONS OF THE ANCIENTS' MOST POTENT SECRETS!



KREGON FOUND THESE HIDDEN PLACES, BUT



THERE IS NO MEANS IN THESE BARBARIC TIMES BY WHICH I CAN REACH THESE REMOTE AREAS. BUT I SHALL MARK MY CHART FOR SOMEBODY IN THE FUTURE TO OPERATE MY MIRROR!

AND YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE ANCIENT SECRETS CAN BE FOUND BY THE CHARTS AND MIRROR THAT MYCROFT STOLE?

APPARENTLY HE DID, TOO! IF THERE ARE SUCH SECRETS AND THEY ARE REVEALED TO THIS EVIL MAN, MYCROFT--THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT DANGERS HE MAY LOOSE UPON US.



WITH CHARACTERISTIC SWIFTNESS, THE CHALLENGERS LEAVE THE MUSEUM, AND...

WE KNOW ONE SECRET LOCATION THAT OLD KREGON DIDN'T RECORD--HILLARY MYCROFT'S HIDEOUT!

GETTING IT FROM ONE OF HIS MEN WE CAPTURED DURING OUR LAST BRUSH WITH THE GANG WILL HELP US BREAK THIS CASE



AT THAT MOMENT, IN AN OLD HOUSE OUTSIDE THE CITY,

THIS MIRROR IS BETTER THAN A T. SET, BOSS. IT NOT ONLY CAME UP WITH REFLECTIONS OF THE SECRET HIDEOUT, BUT IT MADE OFF HER LOCATION

YES, AND I'VE MADE MAPS OF EACH SPOT. NOW WE SHALL SET OUT TO RECOVER WHAT WAS LOST OF KREGON'S TEAM



HONEST, BOSS-- DO YOU THINK THIS "JUMBO JUMBO" WILL LEAD US TO SOMETHING WE CAN CASH IN ON?

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE MIRROR WORK? THIS IS MY GREATEST TREASURE! WHEN THE SECRETS OF THE ANCIENT ARE MINE, YOU'LL BE WORKING FOR THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH--ME, HILLARY MYCROFT!



SUDDENLY

YOU'LL BE IN HANDCUFFS WHEN WE'RE THROUGH WITH YOU, MYCROFT.

THE CHALLENGERS! QUICKLY, MEN-- THIS WAY!



S-I-T... MYCROFT'S HAND DARTS TO A HIDDEN LEVER.

HAHAHAHA!

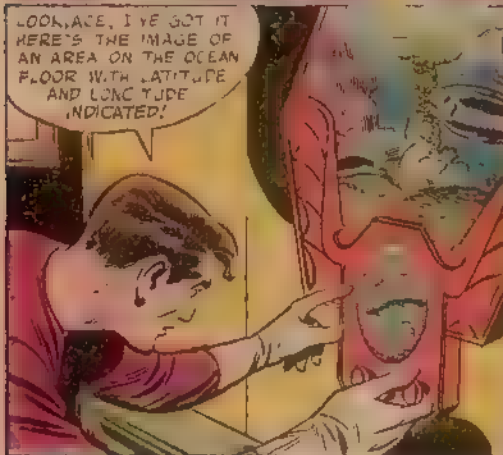
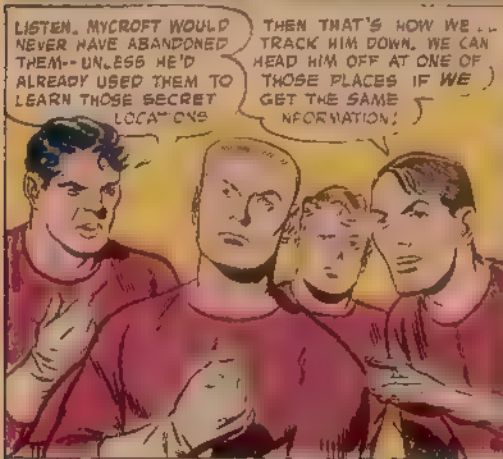
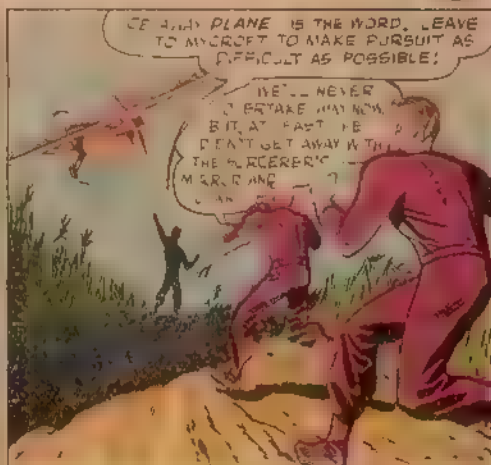
BEFORE YOU BIND A FOX--YOU'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM FIRST



BLAST MYCROFT AND HIS TRICKS! HE CUT US OFF WITH THIS DESCENDING WALL

IT'S TOO STRONG TO BREAK THROUGH





THEN

LOOK AT THE REFLECTION WE GET WITH THESE COORDINATES. A NEEL-CHAK, A HUMAN BEING, IN THE AREA! LOOK AT ITS WALLS-- THEY'VE BEEN WORN SMOOTH BY FIERCE WINDS!

THAT'LL BE A NAU-TY JOB EVEN FOR AN EXPERT CLIMBER. BUT IT'S MY DEPARTMENT, AND I'LL DO IT.



THE FINAL MARKS ARE GIVEN

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SLAND IN THOSE LATTICES. BUT THERE'S ONE NO CLEAR AS DAY. THE CLIMBER NOT A SLAND, BUT AN ENTIRE ISLAND.



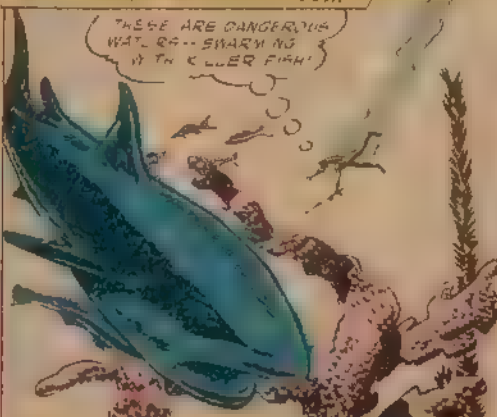
ACCORDING TO THIS NOTATION, THE ANCIENTS CALLED IT, SINDBAD'S ISLAND.

IT'S LIKELY THAT MYCROFT, HIMSELF, WILL CHOOSE THAT SPOT IN PREFERENCE TO THE OTHERS! ROCKY AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM, BUT THE MAIN CONSIDERATION IS TO KEEP THOSE ANCIENT SECRETS OUT OF HIS HANDS!

THE SORCERER'S NOTES HINT OF STRANGE FORCES WITH UNIMAGINABLE POWERS. WE'D BETTER NOT FAIL!



SOME TIME LATER PROFC. CLIVES GOES INTO THE GREAT WORLD BENEATH THE SEA.



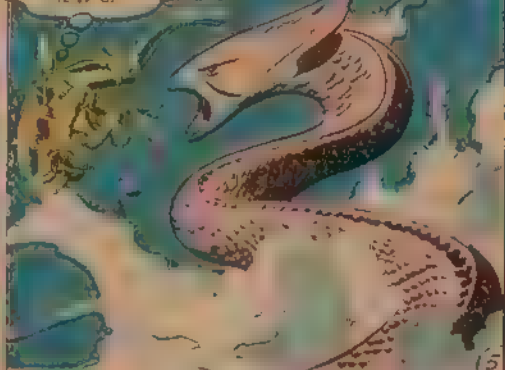
THESE ARE DANGEROUS WATERS-- SWARMING WITH KILLER FISH!

THERE'S A MAN-- WHO MUST BE ONE OF MYCROFT'S CRONIES! HE'S DUG UP ONE OF THE ANCIENT OBJECTS.



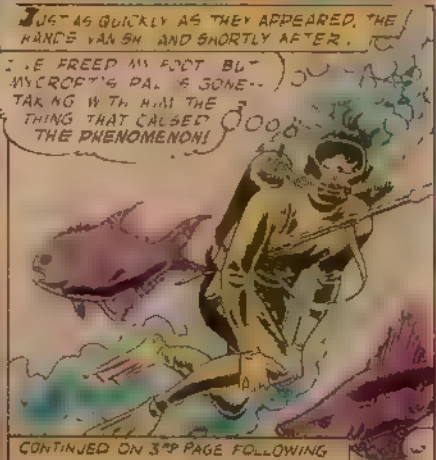
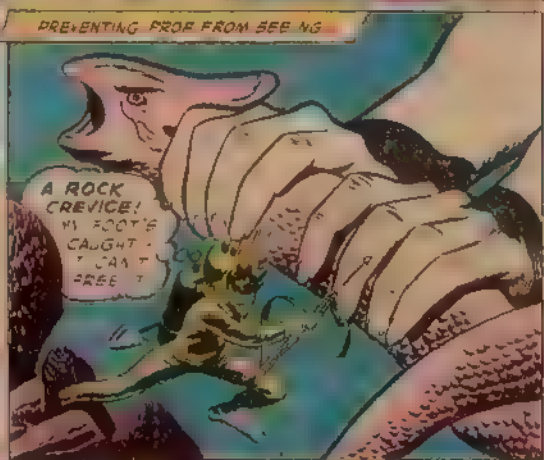
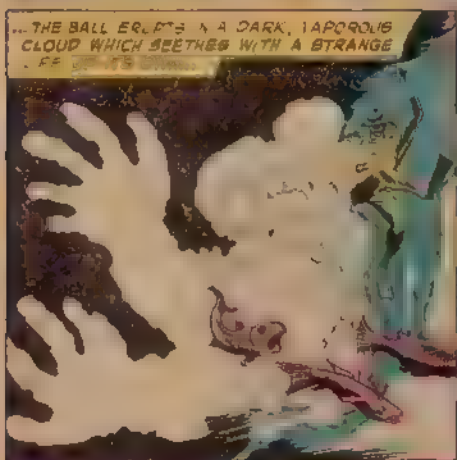
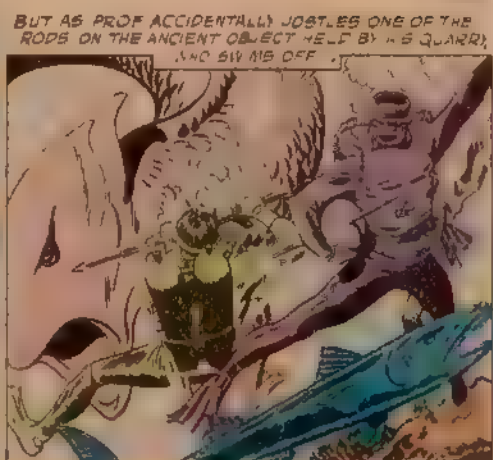
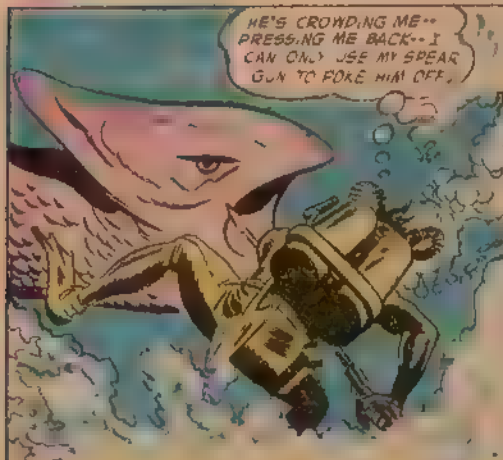
BUT AS PROF. THRESHES TOWARD HIS ADVERSARY.

GOOD LUCK! THAT A ME FOR THE THING TO SHOW UP!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



HE'S PROBABLY ON HIS WAY TO DELIVER THAT THING TO MYCROFT ON SAGBAD'S ISLAND! I'LL RENDEZVOUS THERE WITH ACE AND RAY.



MEANWHILE, IN A WARREN, STORM-SWEPT MOUNTAIN AREA

"THERE'S NOT A SIGN OF MYCROFT OR HIS MEN. THEY MUST HAVE REACHED THE CLIMB FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS. WE'LL ALL HAVE A ROUGH TIME OF IT!"

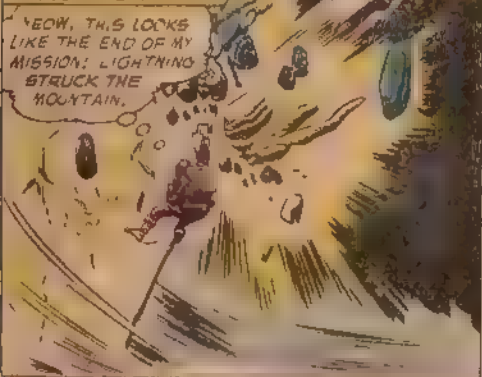


TWO HOURS LATER.

GREAT SCOTT! THE MOUNTAIN WALL'S WORK SO SMOOTH, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A HANDHOLD! IT'S A MIRACLE I MADE IT THIS FAR--EVEN WITH THIS AUTOMATIC HAND-DRILL!

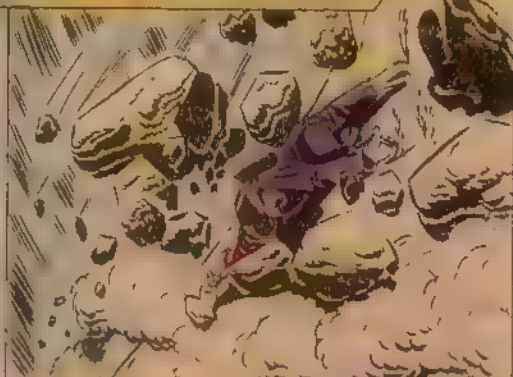


AND AS THE FURY OF THE ELEMENTALS INCREASES IN VIOLENCE, RED TORNADO DOGGEDLY UPWARD



"GOD, THIS LOOKS LIKE THE END OF MY MISSION! LIGHTNING STRUCK THE MOUNTAIN."

UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE THUNDEROUS ROCK SLIDE, THE MOUNTAIN SEEMS TO SHAKE, BUT RED CLINGS TO HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH



AND AS HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH EBBS

"I MADE IT--I'M AT THE TOP! BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF MYCROFT'S STOGES--GUESS THEY WEREN'T AS LUCKY AS I."



A STONY HOLLOW PROVIDES RED WITH SHELTER FROM THE WINDS--AND THE OBJECT OF HIS MISSION

"SO THIS IS WHAT THEY WERE AFTER! NOW I'VE GOT TO REST GET BACK SOME STRENGTH FOR THE DESCENT."

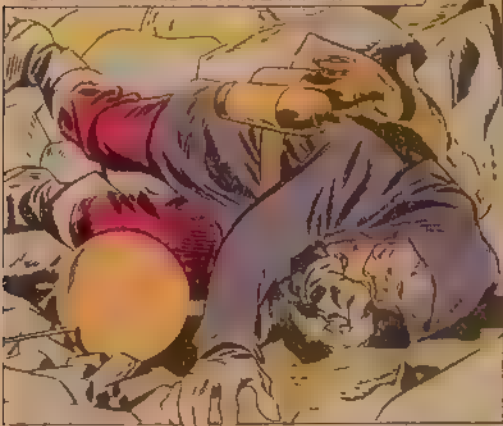




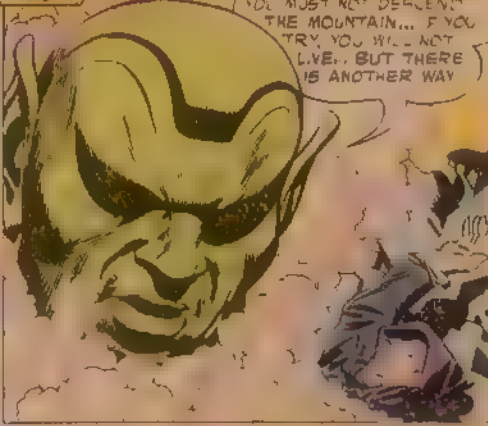
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



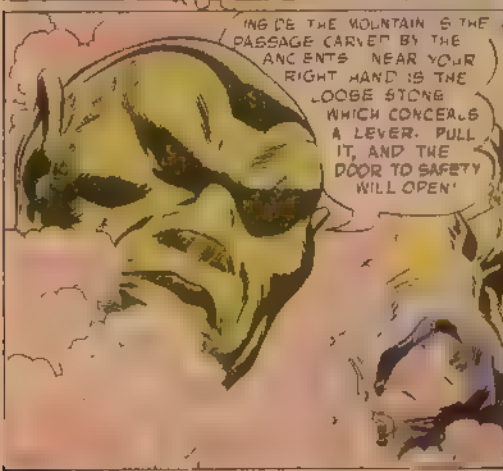
OVERCOME WITH FATIGUE, RED SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, HIS ARM DROPPING ON A PROJECTING ROD.



INSTANTLY, A PUFF OF GASEOUS CLOUD RISES, AND...



"YOU MUST NOT DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN... IF YOU TRY, YOU WILL NOT LIVE... BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY."



"THE PASSAGE IN THE MOUNTAIN IS THE PASSAGE CARVED BY THE ANCIENTS. NEAR YOUR RIGHT HAND IS THE LOOSE STONE WHICH CONCEALS A LEVER. PULL IT, AND THE DOOR TO SAFETY WILL OPEN."



"I KE A DREAM, THE PASSAGE IN THE CLOUD VANISHED, BUT RED DOES AS B D. I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING. THE PASSAGE JUST AS THAT FANTASTIC IS TO DESCRIBE IT!"



"THIS IS MORE LIKE IT. I'LL GET DOWN A LOT EASIER THAN I LANE UP."



"BUT WAITING FOR THE EXHAUSTED RED WHEN HE EMERGES AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN."

"STOP RIGHT THERE, CHALLENGER! WE GOT HERE BEFORE YOU, ALL RIGHT--BUT WE WERE IN NO HURRY TO MAKE THAT CLIMB WHEN WE SIZED UP THAT MOUNTAIN!"

"WHEN WE SPOTTED YOU COMING, WE DECIDED TO LET YOU DO OUR JOB FOR US! NOW HAND THAT OVER!"

EVEN AS THE HOBSTERS MENACE HIM, RED'S HAND
PULLS FREE ONE OF THE OBJECT'S ROBS



THEN, HE COMPLIES WITH THE ORDER.

THAT'S THE CHALLENGER!
THANKS FOR HELPING
US OUT!

SORRY WE CAN'T
STICK AROUND.
WE'VE GOT TO
TELL MICROFT
ABOUT THIS.



THE TRICKY SCHEMERS! IF
THEY'RE HEADING FOR
SINDBAD'S ISLAND, I'LL
BE CLOSE ON THEIR
HEELS TO HELP ACE
AND ROCKY DEAL
WITH THEM.



BUT SINDBAD'S ISLAND IS THE
SCENE OF AN UNBELIEVABLE
OCCURRENCE WHEN ACE AND
ROCKY REACH ITS SHORE!

MICROFT MUST BE HERE!
I SAW HIS PLANE IN A
CAVE BEFORE WE
LANDED!



LISTEN TO THOSE
PAR-SPLITTING
SQUAWKS AND
SHOOTING WHATE
SO NO ONE?



UMPING JUMPER! IT'S A BIRD
AS BIG AS A BOMBER! IT'S PECKING AT
SOMETHING ON THE SIDE OF THAT HILL



THE LEGENDARY ROC. CAN
YOU SEE WHAT IT'S TRYING
TO GET AT?

MICROFT! THAT
THING'S GOT
MICROFT HOLED
UP IN A CAVE.

THAT COULDN'T BE A BREAK FOR US!
WHILE HE'S CONCERNED WITH THE
BIRD, WE CAN BEAT HIM TO
THAT ANCIENT SECRET!



SLIPPING CAUTIOUSLY ACROSS THE OPEN BEACH,
ACE AND ROCK SCRAMBLE UP THE SIDE OF A
TOWERING CLIFF 50 FT. WITH THE R TAIL
ALMOST COMPLETELY

THEY MUST BE
WHAT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR

ACE!
THE
ROC-

ROCKY.
LOOK
OUT!

IT'S
GOT
US!

WE'RE
DONE FOR
ACE--THERE'S
NO WAY OUT
OF THIS JAM!

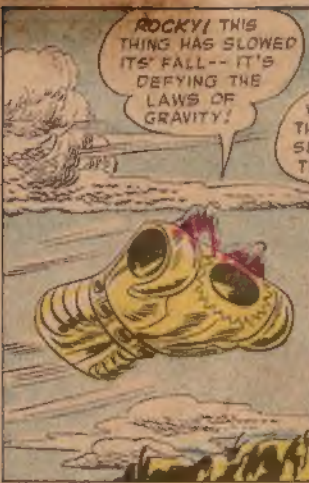
KIDS MY ARM
 STRUCK ONE OF
 THOSE ROCKS AND
 SOMETHING'S
 HAPPENING
 THIS BALL! IT'S
 IN A
 A C.C.C.

LOOK
WHAT IT'S
CHANGED
INTO:

SOMEHOW, I ACTIVATED THE
POWERS OF THE ANCIENTS!
THAT ORNAMENT IN THE
CENTER OF THE CHEST
ARMOR T'S GLOWING
RED!

IT'S GIVING OFF A
RAY OF RED LIGHT
A HEAT RAY! IT'S
SCORCHING THE
ROC'S FEATHERS.

IT'S RELEASED US! WE'RE
FALLING! IT'S A THOUSAND
FOOT DROP!



ROCKY! THIS THING HAS SLOWED ITS FALL-- IT'S DEFEYING THE LAWS OF GRAVITY!

AND, INSTEAD OF BEING DASHED TO THE EARTH BELOW, THE CHALLENGERS GLIDE GENTLY TO THE GROUND...

WE'RE SAFE-- THANKS TO THE SECRETS OF THE ANCIENTS!

TO THINK THIS THING IS LITTLE MORE THAN AN ILLUSION! IT-- IT'S BEGINNING TO FADE--



IT IS NOT AN ILLUSION! THE POWERS HAVE DONE THEIR WORK SO THEY ASSUME THE SIMPLE FORM DEVISED FOR THEM BY THE ANCIENT SORCERERS!

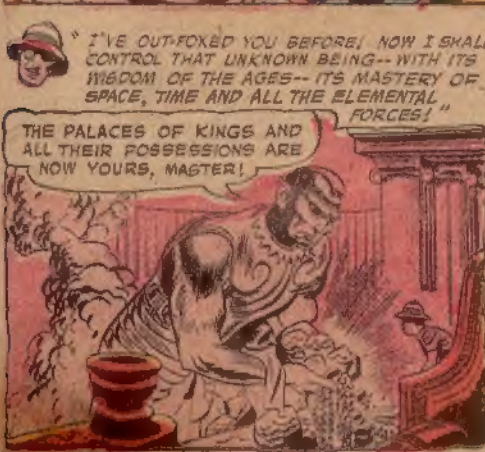
MYCROFT-- AND YOU'VE BEEN JOINED BY YOUR MEN! THAT MEANS--



--THEY'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR MISSIONS, DESPITE THE INTERFERENCE OF YOUR FRIENDS! YOUR DAYS OF MEDDLING IN MY AFFAIRS ARE OVER. WHEN I ASSEMBLE THESE OBJECTS, I SHALL BRING INTO BEING THE COMPLETE ENTITY BEFORE WHOSE POWERS EVEN THE ANCIENTS TREMBLED!

THE SORCERERS WHO DREW THIS BEING FROM THE UNKNOWN DEVISED A METHOD TO IMPRISON IT IN SEPARATE UNITS-- THESE OBJECTS, WHICH THEY BURIED IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, FOR WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD BE ALL ETERNITY!

THEN THERE WERE SOME OF KREGON'S NOTES YOU MANAGED TO KEEP FOR YOURSELF! WE NEVER READ ABOUT THIS!



"I'VE OUT-FOXED YOU BEFORE! NOW I SHALL CONTROL THAT UNKNOWN BEING-- WITH ITS WISDOM OF THE AGES-- ITS MASTERY OF SPACE, TIME AND ALL THE ELEMENTAL FORCES!"

THE PALACES OF KINGS AND ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS ARE NOW YOURS, MASTER!



"NO ONE ON EARTH WILL DARE DEFEY THE WILL OF HILLARY MYCROFT!"

MAYOR, TELL THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY THAT THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY ORDERS ARE NOT OBEYED!



LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

Address all mail to:
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
National Periodicals
909 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

B-708



EDITOR'S NOTE: New readers and old fans should welcome the two stories in this issue. They represent the qualities that made the CHALLENGERS the exciting and intriguing mag that it is—suspense, characterization, misterioso coupled with staggering high adventure. Since we enjoyed a degree of success in offering samples of their escapades in two previous issues—from *Showcase* No. 6 and No. 7—we are offering these twin tempestuous tales.

Having firmly established themselves in the comics firmament with their experimental appearance in *Showcase*, our Challs were lofted into a magazine of their own. Two of the most thrilling yarns subsequently ran in CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN No. 2, June-July 1958, and in No. 3, Aug-Sept. 1958. The former was titled, "The Traitorous Challenger," the latter, "The Secret of the Sorcerer's Mirror." Jack Kirby conceived the pencils and Wally Wood handled the inking.

The clan of Kirby aficionados, as well as others to whom Jack Kirby has become a household word, should rejoice in the news that he's back at the drawing board—and DC has him!

Inspired by the sunny climes and balmy breezes of California, as well as working within the framework of the DC family that helped boost him to fame, Jack is developing a number of projects. If the past is any indication of the future, then comics mag history is about to be made.

Of the several chores he's churning out, a block-busting, revolutionary *Jimmy Olsen*, *Superman's Pal* will be the first to be flaunted from the newsstands. That momentous occasion is slated to take place, August 25. Judging from the acclaim that's greeted any and all of Kirby's comics creations in the past, we advise you to impress upon your dealer to order your copy NOW!

The dates when the other Kirby classics make their debuts will shortly be announced in many, if not all DC magazines. So keep your eyes peeled, get on your marks, get set, and be ready to GO!

Coincidentally, another ace artist with the initials of J.K. provided the cover of this issue. We're not engaging in a guessing game with our readers. Any and all of them are sure to recognize the sterling talents of Joe Kubert.

P.S. FROM THE EDITOR: Scores of readers have been writing, inquiring about getting back issues to round out their collection of the CHALLENGERS as well as other mags. As we've indicated, we're glad to oblige above and beyond the call of duty to render assistance. Letters are forwarded to a source that usually proves helpful, but to insure a response to your

own inquiry, we advise you—in fact, we URGE you! --to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope!

CHALLS CHIT-CHAT: "Whatever doubts I had about George Tuska were wiped out with No. 74," writes Carl Gafford of New Milford, Conn. "He's the artist we've all been waiting for." (*More of Gentleman George's artistic versatility can be seen in UNEXPECTED, and occasionally in GIRLS' ROMANCES and FALLING IN LOVE. We've got great plans in store for him, too.—Ed.*)

"No. 74 was great. Corinna has made the CHALLS better than ever," avers Rick Woodie of Wilkesboro, N.C. "First question: Was that the shadow of Deadman on the cover? Second question: Did Neal Adams do the cover for that issue?" (*Yes, it was, and yes, he did.—Ed.*)... "One small thing about No. 74. On Page 23, Corinna says she's grateful nobody was hurt in the fight, yet back on Page 12, Rocky was hit by a heavy beam. So how's about it?" asks Steve Fischbach of St. Paul, Minn. (*So what's a knock on the noggin to Ol' Rockhead?—Ed.*)

"It was good to see Jonny Double again," says John Glasser of Flushing, N.Y. and Craig Britton of Dowagiac, Mich. "Any chance of seeing him again?" (*Fans responded unanimously to Jonny's comeback, so no doubt he'll be spotted for guest appearances here and elsewhere in the future. If memory serves us right, he made a quickie appearance in a recent Brave and Bold, too.—Ed.*)... "It would be interesting to see Ace and Corinna fall for each other," pens Greg Potter of Warwick, R.I., who adds to his Cupid kick by noting, "Get Rocky a real wow-type female who knows enough judo to throw a big lug like him over her shoulder, and into love." (*We'll see, we'll see....Ed.*)

"When you said fans' comments in Chit-Chat were unworthy of more space, did you mean they weren't very interesting?" asks Irving Heimer from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. "Who produced 'Flash of Memory' in No. 73, and which mags do you edit?" (*Space is so tight, as you can see, we can only extract that part of the letter which offers the most general interest. 'Flash' was scripted by Ye Ed and drawn by George Tuska. As for our other editorial endeavors, we're charged with Brave and the Bold, Superboy, Unexpected, Jerry Lewis, and two love mags, Falling in Love and Girls' Romances. With the departure of Mort Weisinger, we'll also be responsible for Action and Jimmy Olsen.*)

Not only do we hope to continue the high degree of quality that Mort established, but we're planning some radical and revolutionary changes in conjunction with Julie Schwartz, who's been entrusted with *World's Finest* and *Superman*.—Ed.)

